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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

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Inspection Report
Minerals Regulatory Program
Report Date September 27, 2005

Supervisor 

Mine Name: Wilson-Silverbell
Operator Name: Umetco Minerals

Permit number: M/037/027
Inspection Date: August 18, 2005
Time: 10:20-11:45 AM

Inspector(s): Paul Baker
Other Participants: None
Mine Status: Reclaimed

Weather: Mostly clear, 70's

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Concurrent Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Water Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Purpose of Inspection:

I was in the area and, in light of the operator's request to release most of the site, wanted to look for any concerns with this release request. More specifically, I wanted to check vent hole locations to verify whether they had been reclaimed.

Inspection Summary:

1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds

On September 21, 2004, the Division received a request from the operator to release all but 6.9 acres of the disturbance at this site. The operator has a contract with the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining and furnished a financial statement in compliance with this contract. The Division determined the operator no longer meets the requirements to continue with a Board contract, so the operator submitted a corporate surety reclamation bond and a new reclamation contract. This new contract has yet to be signed.

10. Revegetation

The operator reseeded the Wilson waste pile last fall, and I saw signs of increased cover from perennial species (Photo 7). There were still a lot of weeds, but there were enough perennial species that it may not be necessary to seed again to get 70 percent of the cover of adjacent areas.

There was a recent fire in the area. Although the fire was mostly in a pinyon/juniper woodland adjacent to the mine (Photo 5), there was some damage in the reclaimed area (Photo 4). In addition,

someone had been driving over the reclaimed area, apparently to get to the fire (Photo 6). The damage done by driving over the site should be temporary.

12. Other

There were two structures in the field north and west of the Silverbell waste pile (Photos 1 and 2). The one shown in Photo 1 housed what appeared to be a well, but I do not know its condition. The well had a 6-inch casing, and there was a switch box with a label saying it was for the well. There was no overhead power to the well and probably no underground power. The building was wood frame with sheet metal siding. A map in the Division's file shows a well at the location I mapped.

The other structure housed a compressor. The compressor had a label saying it was the property of Union Carbide Corporation which is affiliated with the operator.

The surface facilities map in the mine plan shows a vent hole and a substation at the location where the compressor is. I tried to determine whether there was a vent hole but could not clearly tell. If there is a vent hole at this location, it is covered by the pad on which the compressor rests.

I took GPS readings at the two buildings and also at a mound that looked like it might have been a vent hole, but it appears I was mistaken. The map showing these locations is attached. On the map, the site marked "other" is the compressor, and the "drill hole" is the mound that is apparently not a drill hole.

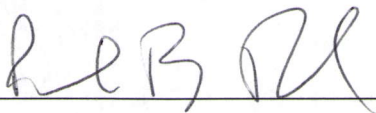
Conclusions and Recommendations:

I expect vegetation on the Wilson waste pile to grow enough that the Division may be able to release it using normal criteria next spring. If this does not happen, the operator may want to try showing that everything practical has been done at this site and that the Division should release it on this basis.

I was told the compressor and well have been taken over by the land owner, but I have not been able to find anything in the files showing that the operator had approval to leave the well or the compressor and possible vent hole. These need to be reclaimed unless the operator can show that there are postmining land uses for these facilities and that the land owner desires that they remain.

I need to finish preparing findings to support the operator's request for release of certain areas but cannot do so until resolving which facilities are to remain following reclamation. Once the findings have been prepared, the Board will need to decide whether to release the operator from further responsibility on parts of the area.

Inspector's Signature



Date: September 27, 2005

PBB:jb

cc: Rahe Junge, Umetco
Attachment: GPS Map & Photos

**ATTACHMENT
Photographs**

M/037/027, Wilson/Silverbell Mine, Umetco Minerals

Inspection Dated: August 18, 2005; Report Dated: September 27, 2005



Photo 1 The building containing the well.



Photo 3. The compressor.



Photo 2. The building containing the compressor.



Photo 4. A portion of the reclaimed area damaged by fire.



Photo 5. There was a recent fire in a pinyon/juniper woodland adjacent to the mine site.



Photo 6. It appeared firefighters drove over parts of the reclaimed area to get to the fire.

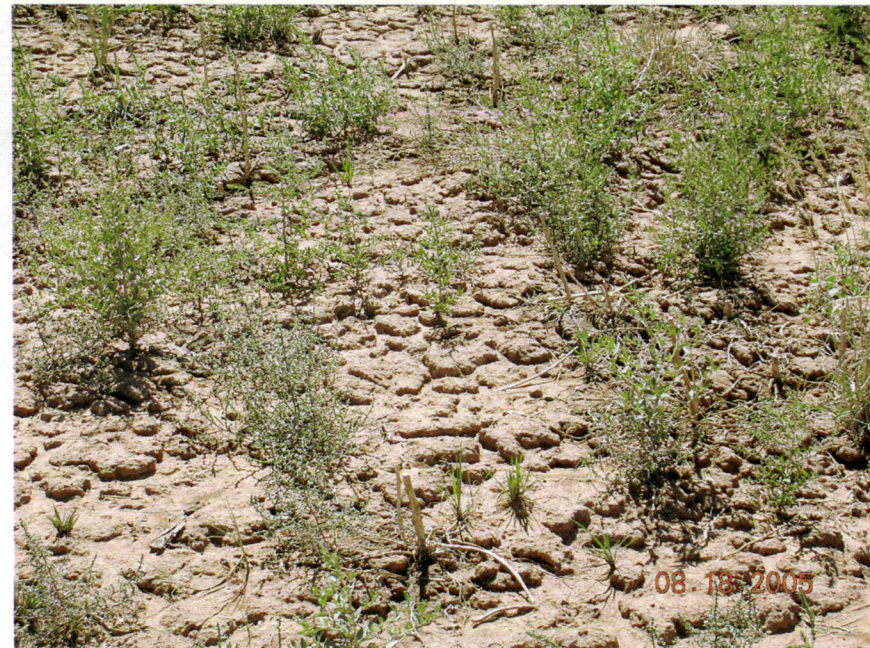
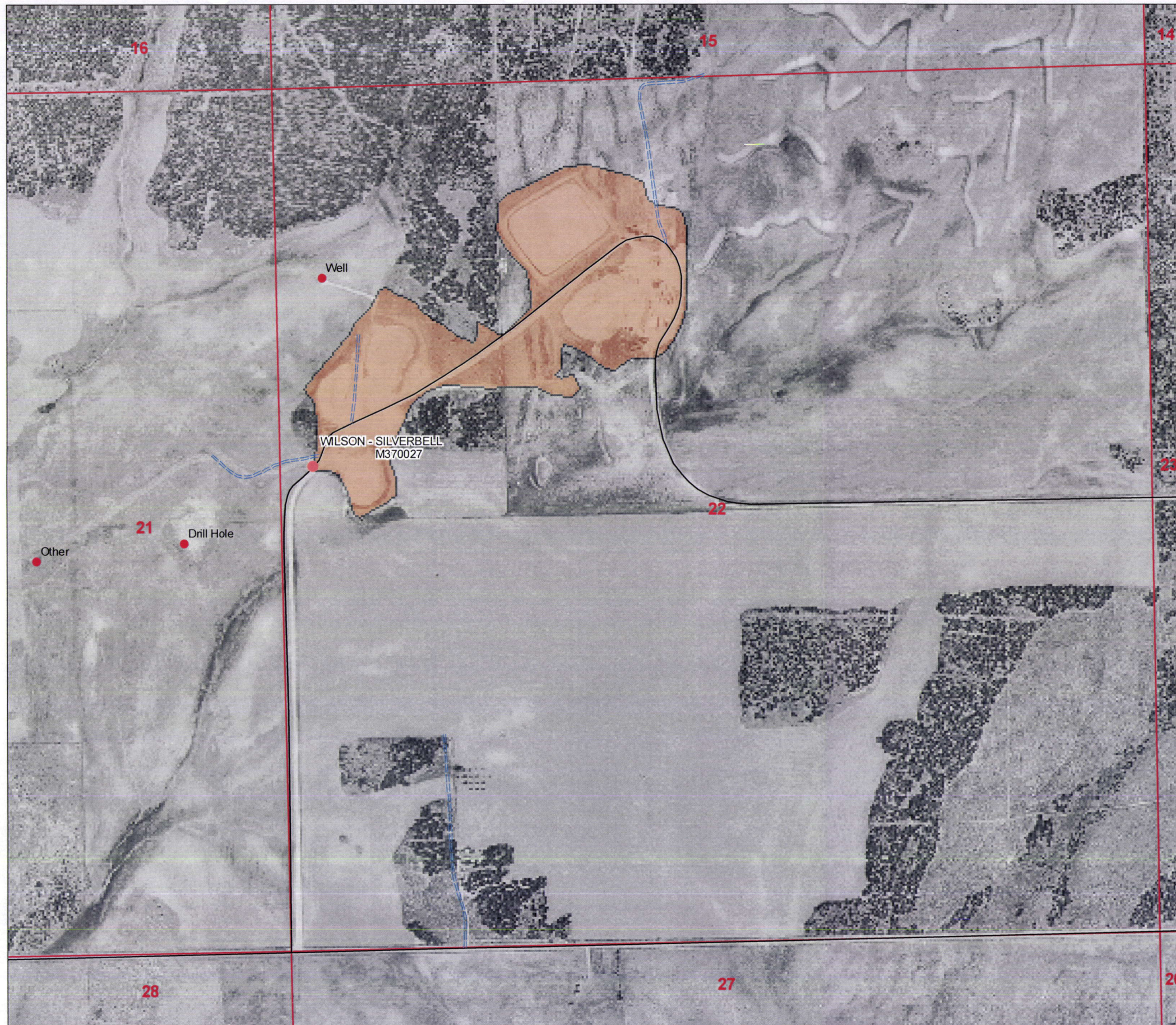


Photo 7. Vegetation on the Wilson waste pile. There were quite a few weeds, but some perennial vegetation was coming in.



Mine Number: M370027
Mine Name: Wilson - Silverbell
Township 32 S Range 26 E
Section 22 SLBM

Inspection Date Aug. 18, 2005
Map Produced by DKS

Acres Disturbed	0
Acres Regraded	0
Acres Seeded	46.16
Road Acres Disturbed	0

Total Acres Disturbed	0
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Acres Reclaimed	0
Acres Excluded	0
Acres Prelaw	0

Legend

All items symbolized in legend may not be appear on map

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| County Boundary | Township or range Line |
| Access | Township or range line: location doubtful |
| Mine | Section line |
| NonMine | Section line: location doubtful |
| Other | Disturbed |
| Interstate | Regraded |
| US Route | Seeded |
| State Route | Reclaimed |
| Primary Route | Excluded |
| Secondary Route | Prelaw |
| Main Dirt Road | Mine Permit |
| Unimproved Road | |
| Interchange | |
| Trail | |

DOQ imagery date 1997



0 625

Feet
1:7,500 1 inch equals 625 feet
Verify Scale

Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
Mineral Mines Program

Different data sources and input scales
may cause misalignment of data layers.
This product may not meet DGM
standards for accuracy and content.